

**HIGH PRECISION GAS BEARING SPLIT-AXIS STAGE FOR
TRANSPORT AND CONSTRAINT OF LARGE FLAT FLEXIBLE
MEDIA DURING PROCESSING**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A modular split-axis stage is used to inspect and/or repair large flat glass media suitable for LCD/TFT applications. Low-precision air table sections are detachably mounted to a centrally located, high-precision granite inspection/repair section. Glass media held by a vacuum contact is transported on air cushions from the up-web air table to the central inspection/repair section. Vacuum nozzles integrated with porous medium pads precisely control the height of the flexible media above the central section during inspection or repair. Embodiments includes structures in which the media is either stationary or moving during inspection/repair. A first media can be loaded/unloaded while a second media is undergoing inspection or repair in a pipelined operational mode.

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